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THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MARCH ISSUED BY THE  
NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE ON 1 MARCH 2006.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 17 MARCH 2006.

### **Lake Superior**

Temperatures were below or much below normal during the last two weeks of February. The current ice situation is still about six to seven weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near or below normal for the first half of March.

1. Thunder Bay – Most of the bay will remain consolidated with medium and thin lake ice during the first two weeks of March except for the southern entrance. This area will continue to have some new and thin lake ice form during the first week of March. However by the second week, the southern entrance will be mostly open water.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays –Consolidated thick and medium thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Some bands of new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the shore and drive offshore a few miles before melting during the first week of March. By the end of the second week, only a few isolated bands of thin lake ice will be present.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Mainly open water with a few strips of new and thin lake ice during the first week of March. By the middle of the month. Open water conditions will prevail.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – Narrow bands of new and thin lake ice will remain along the shore and around the Apostle Islands. Some areas of consolidated thin lake ice will be present around the Apostle Islands. Some ice melt will occur by the middle of March.
6. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated medium lake ice along the eastern and southern shore will remain while the rest of the bay will be covered with thin and new with some medium lake ice. By the middle of March the ice edge in the bay will move somewhat eastward leaving the western entrance to the bay mainly open water.
7. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay and westward to Nipigon Bay – Mainly open water with some areas of new and thin lake ice forming along the coast during the first week of March. By the middle of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail.
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16th to 31st.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the last two weeks of March.

1. Thunder Bay – Consolidated medium and thick lake ice in most of the bay will begin to show signs of break-up near the end of the month. The eastern entrance will be mostly open water except with fractured consolidated ice drifting through the area by the end of the month.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays –Consolidated thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Open water.

4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Open water.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – The new and thin lake ice will begin to melt during the third week of March. By the end of the month mostly open water conditions will prevail except around the Apostle Island where some patches of rotten consolidated medium lake ice will remain.
6. Whitefish Bay – The consolidated ice in the eastern and southern portion of the bay will begin to fracture during the last week of March. The mobile ice in the rest of the bay will deteriorate leaving patches of thin and medium lake ice in the eastern and southern reaches of the bay by the end of the month. The rest of the bay will be open water.
7. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay and westward to Nipigon Bay – Mainly open water
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

### **Lake Michigan**

Temperatures were below normal in the southern region and much below in the north during the last half of February. The current ice situation is about six weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near or below normal for the first two weeks of the March.

1. Green Bay – Little change in terms of ice extent. Some consolidated thin and medium lake ice will be present in the southern portion of the bay while the Little and Big Bay de Noc will remain consolidated. The rest of the ice will be mostly medium and thin lake ice by the middle of March with some areas of open water forming.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – The ice edge may retreat somewhat towards the northeast during the period.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Mainly open water conditions will develop everywhere in the region early in the month.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16th to 31st.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the last half of March.

1. Green Bay – By the end of March, the consolidated ice the southern half of Green Bay as well as in the Little and Big Bay de Noc will fracture. The rest of Green Bay will have a general deterioration of the ice with more widespread open water developing by the end of March.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The ice edge will continue to retreat north-eastward during the period. By the end of March, the ice edge will be located near the entrance to the Straits of Mackinaw. The consolidated ice along the shore will also show signs of deterioration.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Open water with the central portion of the lake being ice free.

## **Lake Huron and Georgian Bay**

Temperatures were near to below normal during the last two weeks of February. The current ice situation is four to five weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near or below normal over the first half of March.

1. North Channel – The entire channel will remain consolidated medium and thick lake ice.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with medium and thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron - Some new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the shore during the first week of March however the ice will begin to melt and deteriorate during the second week so that by the middle of the month mostly open water conditions will prevail.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice along the shore will remain near Bois Blanc Island during the first week of March but will begin to retreat westward and melt during the second week.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – The narrow band of new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the shore and extend to about 5 to 10 miles from the shore during the first week of March however by the end of the second week mainly open water conditions will develop with some strips of thin and new ice.
6. Saginaw Bay – The consolidated thin and medium lake ice along the shore will begin to fracture by the middle of March. The mobile ice in the central and northern portion of the bay will begin to deteriorate during the second week of March.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Narrow bands of new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the southern and eastern shore and extend to about 5 to 10 miles of the shore during the first week of March. However by the middle of March mainly open water with some strips of new and thin lake ice will prevail along the south-western shore while a narrow band of medium and thick lake ice remains along the eastern shore.
8. Georgian Bay – The thin and medium lake ice will continue to extend slowly south-westward into the south-western part of Georgian Bay during the first week of March. However by the middle of the month, the ice edge will retreat north-eastward and only cover the north-eastern shore of the Bay. The consolidated ice along the north-eastern shore will remain.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16th to 31st.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the last two weeks of March.

1. North Channel – Signs of fracture will begin to manifest itself in the consolidated ice during the third week of March. By the end of the month most of the bay will have fractured except for the eastern and western portion of the Bay. Some open water areas will develop during the period.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with thick lake ice will begin to fracture during the last week of March.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – Mainly open water except for some ice drifting southward from the North Channel.

4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice near of Bois Blanc Island will continue to pull back during the period so that by the end of March most of the ice edge will be gone except for some patches of consolidated ice near the Straits of Mackinaw.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water conditions will prevail during the last week of March.
6. Saginaw Bay – The rest of the consolidated ice will fracture during the third week of March. By the end of the month only the eastern and southern section of the bay will have some isolated areas of rotten medium and thick lake ice. The rest of the bay will open water.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Mainly open water conditions will prevail over the entire area by the fourth week of March.
8. Georgian Bay –The fast ice along the northeast shore will begin to fracture by the end of the month. The mobile ice in the north-eastern part of the bay will continue to deteriorate so that by the end of the month mainly open water will prevail.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron– Open water.

### **Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair**

Temperatures were near to above normal during the last half of February. The current ice situation is six weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the first half of March.

1. Lake St Clair – New lake ice will continue to form during the first week of March however some ice melt will occur during the second week so that by the middle of the month the northern portion of the lake will be open water.
2. Western Basin – Ice growth will continue to expand and cover the basin during the first week of March with new and thin lake ice. However during the second week, some significant ice melt will occur. Mainly open water with some patches of rotten thin and medium lake ice will remain by the middle of March.
3. The rest of Lake Erie – New and thin lake ice will continue to form along the northern shore and drift southeastward during the first week of March however by the end of the second week the ice will melt leaving only a narrow band of ice along the extreme eastern part of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16th to 31st.

Temperatures will average near or below normal for the last two weeks of March.

1. Lake St Clair – Mainly open water conditions will develop during the third week of March.
2. Western Basin – Mainly open water.
3. The rest of Lake Erie – Mostly open water will prevail during the third week of March.

## **Lake Ontario**

Temperatures were near normal during the second half of February. The current ice situation is about six weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will be below normal for the first two weeks of March.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – No significant changes to the ice will occur during first week of March. By the middle of the month some deterioration of the ice will occur leaving only patches of thin and new lake ice with consolidated medium lake ice in the smaller bays.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium lake.
3. St Lawrence River – The consolidated thin and new lake ice with some medium lake ice will remain during the first week of March. By the middle of the month signs of fracture will begin to appear with some open water areas developing.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Mainly open water along the shore with ice free conditions in the central part of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16th to 31st.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the first part of March.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – A general deterioration of the ice will continue during the second half of March. By the end of the month only isolated patches of medium lake ice will remain.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium to thick lake ice will begin to show signs of deterioration.
3. St Lawrence River – The thin and new lake ice with consolidated medium lake ice around the islands in the river will begin to deteriorate and create significant areas of open water. By the end of March only the consolidated ice around the islands will remain with the remainder of the river being mainly open water.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Mainly open water along the shore with ice free conditions in the central part of the lake.

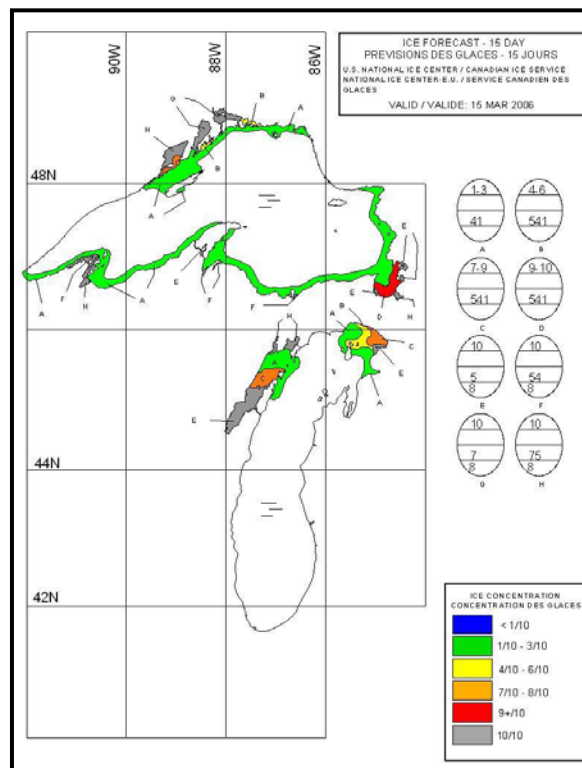


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 March 2006.

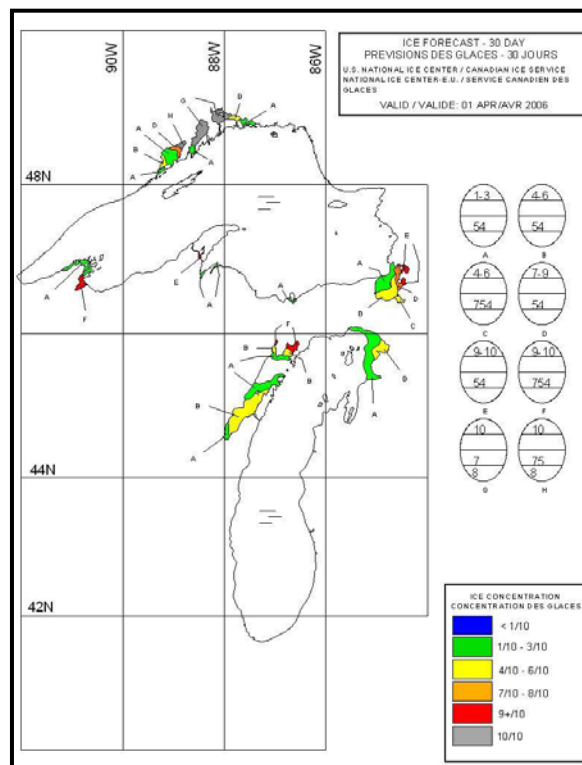


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 1 April 2006.

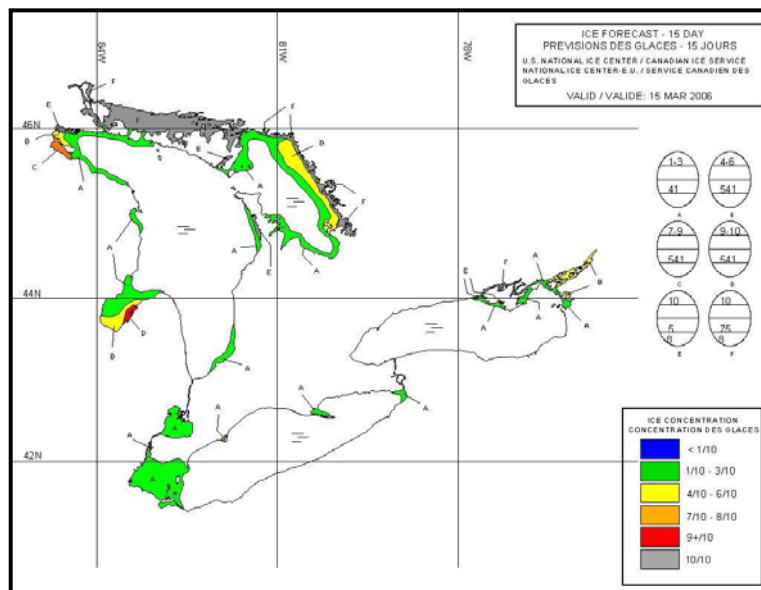


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 March 2006.

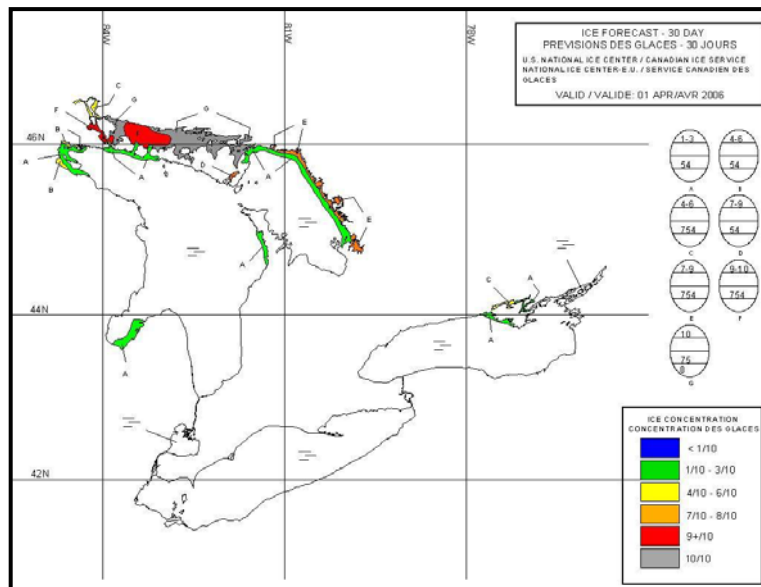


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 April 2006.

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